

people who have expressed their will overwhelmingly through the nationwide referendum of February 9.

The courageous peoples of the Baltic States have acted with dignity and restraint in the face of grave challenges, and the thoughts and prayers of the American people remain with them.

To demonstrate our common cause with freedom, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 606, has designated February 16, 1991, as "Lithuanian Independence Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim February 16, 1991, as Lithuanian Independence Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, reaffirming our support of the just aspirations of all peoples for liberty and self-determination.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6251 of February 21, 1991

National Parents and Teachers Association Week, 1991

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Parents play a singularly influential role in the educational development of their children. Indeed, parents' encouragement and example are far more important factors than a family's social and economic background. Research clearly shows that the interest parents demonstrate in their youngster's daily studies and other school activities can significantly enhance that child's academic performance.

By bringing parents together in an ongoing partnership with teachers and school administrators, the Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) provides an effective means for parents to participate in the education of their children. Because every child, every school, and every community is unique, local PTAs can be an ideal vehicle for meeting specific goals and needs.

The sustained involvement and cooperation of parents are vital if we are to reach our six National Education Goals and ensure that every American has the opportunity to acquire a high quality education. Local PTA groups enable parents to express their concerns and ideas regarding their children's education, and this week we proudly salute these valued organizations.

In recognition of the contributions of PTA organizations across America, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 364 (Public Law 101-643), has designated the third week of February 1991 as "National Parents

and Teachers Association Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning February 17, 1991, as National Parents and Teachers Association Week. I urge all Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 21 day of Feb, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and 91, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6252 of February 21, 1991

Commemoration of the Bicentennial of U.S.-Portugal Relations

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

On February 21, 1791, the United States Senate approved President Washington's nomination of Colonel David Humphreys as the first U.S. Minister to Portugal, thereby establishing diplomatic relations between our two countries. Since that time, the governmental, commercial, and cultural ties between the United States and Portugal have grown and prospered.

Mutually beneficial ties between the United States and Portugal began to take shape long before President Washington agreed to formal recognition of our friendship. Indeed, Portugal was among the nations that led the way to the European discovery and exploration of America: during the 15th and early 16th centuries, Portugal was the center for bold navigational advances that permitted transoceanic travel; there, men such as Christopher Columbus and Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo developed the knowledge and skills that made possible their historic journeys along these shores. The history of America would not be the same were it not for the contributions of the intrepid Portuguese people.

Since the early years of our Republic, Portugal has been a welcome friend. Even before the establishment of formal diplomatic ties, Portugal extended to American shipping the protection of its navy against the Barbary pirates, who were a major threat to U.S. commerce. Soon after diplomatic ties were established, our two countries developed active trade and commercial relations. With seafaring traditions strong in both countries, the Azores played a key role in facilitating trade and commerce, allowing for the provisioning of whaling vessels and other ships. Today our Consulate in the Azores is the oldest active U.S. consular post in the world.

Beginning in the 19th century, over the oceanic bridge provided by the Azores, thousands of Portuguese men and women emigrated to the